

2003), in which he denied bond release to a Haitian on the ground that giving bond to undocumented refugees who come to the United States by sea would cause adverse consequences for national security and sound immigration policy.

This legislation would permit the adjustment of status for Haitians who meet the following categories:

- (1) The individual would have to be a native or citizen of Haiti;
- (2) The individual would have to have been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States; and
- (3) The individual would have to have been physically present in the United States for at least one year.

It will be critical for BICE to have a system in place that will process these individuals but not illegally and excessively detain them or otherwise violate their civil liberties.

The United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology program's (US-VISIT) first phase is deployed at 115 airports and 14 seaports. US VISIT was designed to expedite the arrival and departure of legitimate travelers, while making it more difficult for those intending to do us harm to enter our nation.

The budget for FY 2005 provides \$340 million in 2005, an increase of \$12 million over the FY 2004 funding to continue expansion of the US VISIT system. In his testimony in the Full Committee hearing held on February 12, 2004, Secretary Ridge indicated that "over \$1 billion will be used to support [US-VISIT]." Unfortunately, he failed to adequately address how the budgetary plan will address the following issues:

That US-VISIT will not be effective for border security.

That it will impede U.S.-Mexican trade.

That it will discourage legitimate international travel and hinder South Texas retail.

That it essentially amounts to an anti-immigration policy under the guise of homeland security.

Harm to efficiency—Without a way to separate travelers, lines during high-volume times will be staggering, regardless of how fast the machines may operate.

Of the estimated 400 million people whom US-VISIT would process annually, 360 million would go through land ports of entry—five times more than go through airports and seaports. And unlike air and sea travelers, most land travelers do not file itineraries, carry passport information or go through personal screening.

Legitimate travelers—truckers who haul goods to warehouses just north of the border; people who live in Mexico and work in Texas rail shops or factories; Mexicans who own property in the United States—could be stuck in processing lines.

That US-VISIT targets the wrong people: Mexican and Texas businesses and people who have created an interdependent relationship.

Furthermore, there are tremendous problems with our aviation security systems. Spending on aviation security since September 11, 2001 has totaled \$14.5 billion. Since September 11, we have spent \$18 securing our skies for every \$1 spent securing ports, trucks, buses, mass transit, and pipelines combined.

Numerous media accounts tell of passengers bringing knives and guns on flights

without realizing it, and not getting caught. In the recent situation regarding Nathaniel Heatwole, it was discovered that he told the TSA that he was going to put box cutters and other potentially dangerous items on airplanes, but it still took a routine maintenance check a month later to find them.

Planes that carry only cargo are also dangerously unsecured. Many do not have hardened cockpit doors, and the pilots are not yet allowed to carry firearms.

Another problem was created by the Administration's inexplicable policy of allowing airport employees to enter secure areas of the airport without being screened in the same way passengers and pilots are. Congress has given the Administration substantial resources to do the job—more than any other aspect of homeland security. They must move faster to strengthen our front line defense against the terrorists threatening the safety of our skies and our communities.

Overall, \$890 million is provided for aviation security, a nearly 20 percent increase, including funds to improve integration of explosive detection system (EDS) equipment into individual airports' baggage processing to increase security effectiveness and promote greater efficiency.

On February 24, 2004, Fox News aired a segment on airline security that is simply shocking. It showed a video shot by a passenger on an international flight bound for the United States. While there weren't many open seats on the Air Tahiti Nui passenger jet, the cockpit door remained open. The passenger who shot the film said, "As we were rolling down the runway, the door kept slamming against the back wall." This passenger taped the open cockpit door from his first class seat on a trip from Auckland, New Zealand to Los Angeles, California with a stop-over in Tahiti. He reported that the door remained open most of the time on both legs of the flight and was closed just before the plane's decent into Los Angeles.

This incident shows the severe gaps that we have in our airline security. I have written a letter to Secretary Ridge highlighting this problem and requested that he respond with a specific plan to address it.

Poor data collection, data sharing, equipment, training, and a lack of oversight make our nation extremely vulnerable to terrorist attacks. We must act quickly to address these weaknesses in order to protect our families.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S FY 2005 NATIONAL BUDGET

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today being very disturbed with the direction that President Bush is taking our great nation. The prime reason for my concern is the President's budget that was submitted to this body a few weeks ago. It has become apparent to me that this Administration has lost all sense of reality when it comes to satisfying the needs of average Americans. I say this not out of partisanship, but from a statement of the facts. This President decided that multiple tax cuts for the rich would outweigh the pro-

grams and services most needed by average Americans. The truth is staggering; by 2009 discretionary spending outside of Homeland Security will be \$47 billion less than current levels. In fact, by 2009 the tax cuts this Administration has sponsored will cost more than the cuts in discretionary spending outside of Homeland Security. This means that so many of the programs and services that average Americans rely upon will be cut drastically, all in an effort to finance irresponsible tax cuts that only benefit a small fraction of wealthy Americans.

The truth is that this President is trying to hide from the American people the amount of cuts in important programs that his budget contains. For the first time, this President's 2005 published budget materials do not show discretionary funding totals, or program or account totals, beyond 2005. Again, this President is out of touch with the American people, and worse still he is trying to hide his true intentions. I will not stay silent while he advocates an irresponsible agenda that is geared towards only one small sector of the American population. It is our responsibility to advocate for all Americans, and the great majority of them will be hurt by this irresponsible budget. I want to highlight a few areas in this budget that are particularly egregious.

Education: This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the historic Supreme Court decision that desegregated America's schools. I would not be true to the principles of Brown v. Board of Education if I did not address the current state of our nation's education system. It pains me to do so, I'd much rather stand here and celebrate our great victory from 50 years ago, but to do so and ignore the needs of our nation's children would be a slap in the face to all that we have fought for. At the top of the list of my concerns is the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the fact that it has not lived up to its mandate. In the years before Brown v. Board of Education the proponents of "separate but equal" might have said that no black child was being left behind, but we know that to have been a lie. Likewise we know under the current state of affairs that the idea that American children are not being left behind is a farce.

President Bush shortchanges his own No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) by \$9.4 billion—including \$7.2 billion for Title I. The President breaks his promise to provide \$20.5 billion for Title I under NCLB. His budget will deny nearly 5 million disadvantaged children critical education services, such as extra help to become proficient in reading and math. Since NCLB was signed into law President Bush has underfunded the initiative by \$26.5 billion or 21.7 percent.

President Bush freezes or cuts college aid, forces taxes on students, and fails to stop tuition hikes. Not only does the President fail to address the rising college tuition, but he also makes college even more expensive by freezing or cutting student aid and taxing students.

President Bush jeopardizes aid to children of military families. The Bush budget freezes all Impact Aid funding at the FY 2004 level, jeopardizing programs and services for children of military families.

President Bush breaks his NCLB promise on afterschool programs. The Bush budget freezes funding for afterschool programs. As a result, nearly 1.3 million children will be shut out of afterschool programs.

President Bush makes certain that full funding of special education will never happen. The Bush budget proposes a \$1 billion increase for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This marks the 4th year in a row President Bush has proposed this exact level of increase, placing disabled students at an even greater disadvantage. At this rate of increase, we will never reach full funding of IDEA.

President Bush cuts \$316 million from vocational education and community colleges—again. The Bush Budget would cut \$316 million, or nearly 25 percent, from vocational education. On top of this, President Bush has cut more than \$1.5 billion out of job training and vocational education programs since he took office. In addition, the budget proposes to turn this program into a block grant to states, eliminating accountability and targeting of resources to disadvantaged students and programs.

We all know that education is one of the most important priorities for our great nation. Our children's success or failure will be the true indicator of our effectiveness in this body. The generation of African American leaders who preceded us spent their lives making sure that all children would be able to get educated and have the ability to succeed that every American was entitled to. This President's budget threatens that very core principle. This is more than rhetoric; this idea is based on staggering facts. Of the 65 programs cut completely from the Bush budget, 39 of them were education programs. This President believes America will be better off if the richest Americans get \$66,000 tax cuts, but he doesn't believe our children will be better with programs

like Dropout Prevention, Even Start and School Leadership, all of which are now obsolete under his proposal. This President has a different set of priorities when he believes that hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts for our children's education will be better for America. We as a body of the people can not allow this flawed budget proposal to stand. Our children's future and in turn the future prosperity of this nation is at stake.

Veterans: Our brave American veterans are another group who will have to suffer if this Bush budget is allowed to be put into effect. Funding for America's veterans will be cut by \$13.5 billion over the next five years. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs himself has testified that the Veterans Affairs (VA) budget just for 2005 is \$1.2 billion below the amount that the VA requested from the White House, and that the funding levels for 2006 through 2009 in the President's budget may not be realistic. What other proof needs to be shown that this President and his Administration are simply not in touch with reality when it comes to the needs of our nation. I want to stress that funding for our veterans is not a luxury or an option, it's a requirement. When our veterans went off into service for America and risked their lives they didn't give a half hearted commitment, sadly this President can not say the same for his commitment to our veterans.

I have talked to a number of veterans groups from my district and they are all screaming for better health care for themselves and their families. They have a right to be angry, they gave a sacrifice to this nation that no other group can claim and the treatment they receive in this President's budget is unacceptable. I stand in solidarity with our

brave veterans and everyone else in this body who would like to say the same must be against this President's budget. His proposal does nothing to increase health care coverage for our veterans and their families. I am asking this President, that without proper medical coverage how can any proposal for funding of Veterans Affairs ever be worthwhile?

Education and Veterans Affairs make up only two areas where this President's budget fails Americans. The truth is there are many other programs and services vital to our nation that are at risk because of this Administration. At this point, an average American may be asking why this President finds it necessary to cut so many fundamental programs. The answer is simple, yet disturbing; this President is cutting important programs in order to finance his irresponsible tax cuts. He will continue to make the argument that tax cuts provide stimulus for our economy, but millions of unemployed Americans will tell you otherwise. In fact the Congressional Budget Office itself said "tax legislation will probably have a net negative effect on saving, investment, and capital accumulation over the next 10 years." Yet, this President continues to push forward his failing policies, as he does he falls farther and farther away from the reality faced by average Americans. This body was made to stand for the will of all Americans; if we allow this budget proposal to take effect we will have failed our mandate. I for one will not stand by silently; I have a duty to my constituents and indeed to all Americans to work for their well being and I will continue to honor that duty.